

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

Janet A. Harkness (1948–2012)

Joining the team of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) in 1991 at ZUMA was a turning point in Janet's professional career. She received an M.A. hons. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in English in 1972, taught English and translation at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and received a Ph.D. in linguistics in 1985 from Freiburg University. She became interested in surveys as a means to teach both translation and culture. The questionnaires of the ISSP became part of her translation teaching. In 1991 ZUMA, Mannheim, took over the ISSP secretariat from Roger Jowell (Natcen) and called for Janet to run the secretariat.

She became intrigued by the then new developments in cognition and survey research developed by Norbert Schwarz and his colleagues. At this time, Norbert was still working at ZUMA. However, she was less impressed by the way survey researchers dealt with translating survey items. All the lore told to her made her—as a professional in translation and translation theory—quite uncomfortable, and all the more as the practice of translation (literal, back translation, etc.) were not connected at all with survey measurement and its central concepts.

Step by step, she convinced her colleagues in the ISSP that survey translation should be based on robust linguistic and translation theory as well as measurement concepts and procedures. Janet was the driving force behind the implementation of the ISSP methodology group that expanded beyond translation. It is now a major asset of the ISSP and a model for many other comparative surveys. The European Social Survey (ESS)



project started in 2001 with Janet as leader of the translation task force. This professional task force included survey methodologists and professional translators, a first in survey research. They developed the now standard Translation-Review-Adjudication-Pretesting-Documenting (TRAPD) paradigm for survey translation.

At the same time, the series of ZUMA workshops on ISSP issues led by Janet expanded to workshops and meetings concerning cross-cultural survey methods in general. In 2001, the concept of the International Workshop in Cross-Cultural Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI) was formulated and resulted in the first workshop in 2002 in Brussels. This date marks the foundation of what is today known as 3M (multinational, multicultural, multilingual) survey methodology. Janet attracted colleagues from fields as different as official statistics, linguistics, sample statistics, documentation, and survey methods. Under Janet's leadership, the group set up to capture

AAPOR and WAPOR with the strong support from ISR, NORC, Westat, UIC, ZUMA, and the Bureau of the Census. She was chief editor of the 2003 Wiley publication on cross-cultural survey methods. The new movement culminated in the 2008 first international conference on comparative survey methodology 3MC in Berlin; the edited second Wiley publications based on invited papers from the conference set another milestone in comparative survey methodology.

In 2005, the European Union awarded its prestigious Descartes Award in collaborative research for the first time to the ESS as a social science team, and Janet became a Descartes Laureate. She was

appointed that year as professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (Donald and Shirley Clifton Chair) and was later appointed as Director of the Survey Research and Methodology (SRAM) program and the Gallup Research Center at UNL.

It was a long journey from language studies in Edinburgh to comparative survey methodology in Nebraska. That journey led her to new dimensions in comparative questionnaire design way beyond translation only. She paved the way for comparative survey methodology into the 21st century.

Janet's journey ended after a long battle with cancer in May this year.

International Field Directors and Technologies Conference: What IFD&TC Means to Me

By Past and Current Attendees/Organizers

The International Field Directors and Technologies Conference (IFD&TC) is held annually for government agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit research centers to share practical information on survey data collection (field operations, training, and interviewing techniques) and data dissemination, as well as the technologies that run behind the scenes. The sessions cover research in progress or recently completed. The overall tone of the conference is one of intimacy, family-like, where people with similar interests obtain information on survey research, network, and share experiences and ideas. Some of the most outstanding characteristics of the conference are the emphases on openness and candor and on making sure each participant is welcomed and his or her questions are answered/addressed. These aspects have made IFD&TC a successful venue for veterans of survey research and first timers as well.*

For a deeper insight into this conference, a group of past participants were asked to share thoughts on what IFD&TC has meant to them. Three clear themes emerged from the recollections. This article illustrates the themes using the recollections of conference attendees, from both the field and tech sides, from early and current days. Selections from their comments have been edited/paraphrased (with their permission) to illustrate each point. Their full recollections will be made available on the IFD&TC Web site.

EMERGING THEMES

1. Everyone has learned many valuable lessons, both formal and informal, from attending the conference, and many valuable and long-term professional connections were formed there.
2. Learning experiences were different from what participants had encountered at other conferences due to some distinct features of IFD&TC:
 - Open and nonproprietary culture of information sharing.
 - The flat social/organizational ethos, putting directors of large centers on panels with field supervisors from small universities; this open and informal social structure encouraged information exchange that all expressed was extremely rare at other venues.
 - Deliberately small size of the conference, a meeting structure that recognized that a great deal of information exchange and networking would happen outside of the meeting sessions, and active fostering of connections between newer and established attendees.
 - Encouragement (embodied in the Charter) to bring works in progress along with final papers

*From *Survey Research*, v. 42, no. 2, 2011, "International Field Directors and Technologies Conference Leading the Way of Survey Research," which goes into the history of IFD&TC in more depth; the first paragraph is repeated here to set the stage for these personal reflections.

that has kept everyone informed and excited about hearing new work in the field.

3. That these features of IFD&TC, along with the very strong spirit of self-governance and leadership, have kept the conference a vital part of their professional growth.

LESSONS AND CONNECTIONS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL

I met a lot of other lab supervisors and managers who were struggling, and often succeeding, in managing survey projects, both large and small. They faced limited budgets and short timelines and were concerned about staying within a methodological framework to ensure the collection of sound, scientific data.

As a young researcher, geographically remote, these meetings were both a lifeline and a growth opportunity.

The ability to collaborate with other individuals responsible for IT in the survey world was a missing part of my professional life.

In the case of our organization, we would have been behind at least two or three years in implementing computer-assisted interviewing if not for this conference. It made it much easier to get senior management approval for projects knowing that we were not the only ones trying to achieve better quality and lower cost by getting rid of paper and pencil.

What I typically took away from IFD&TC meetings were not single ideas or suggestions but the feeling of having been immersed in the full scope of activities and problems of survey data collection, from the most practical details to the most current research on new methods and best practices.

It was wonderful to get acquainted with such a bright group with a huge range of experience from all parts of the continent, most of whom have remained lifelong friends.

DIFFERENT NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE

Open and Nonproprietary

What was immediately apparent about the conference that I think makes it stand apart from others is the culture of sharing and openness that extends from everyone involved.

Open and honest sharing of ideas, among field organizations in U.S., Canada, and beyond; across systems, software, and IT organizations, and between the field and technology sectors of survey research.

The culture of open sharing, and leaving "proprietary" at the door has remained a key component of this conference.

Overall, I would say that the overriding philosophy of sharing and the fostering of mutual development is what I enjoy most about the conference.

Flat Social/Organizational Ethos

The unusual mix of senior research professionals, front-line interviewing directors, and Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) systems and programming staff also meant that both the field and the technical realities of survey data collection could not be ignored and these three groups had to face each other as equals in a setting away from their home organizations. It is an arrangement conducive to truth telling.

I will always remember being struck by how vastly different shops, like the sprawling Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan and the Census Bureau, could be struggling with the same basic issues as the much smaller centers like the ones at universities like Idaho or Maryland.

The IFD&TC gives us the chance to have conversations with survey research luminaries who have spent decades in the field and published seminal texts on survey research methodology.

The conference has been a place where the most (and least) experienced members of the field could interact and learn from each other without, for the most part, status differences getting in the way.

I am always impressed by the remarkable depth of personal and professional commitment to the field of survey research among individuals who have attended IFD&TC for many years.

Small Size, Informal Structure, Fostering Connections

Those who have served the organization in various roles have done so with a spirit of servant leadership—striving always to provide a conference experience that is highly accessible to newcomers and highly informative for veterans.

The ease with which attendees with decades in the field interact with first-time attendees is a credit to the culture and tone that the conference organizers have taken great pains to create.

The introduction of random digit dining (RDD) in about 1995-96 helped new people meet folks more easily. With assigned, random table seating for lunches, there was no longer any insecurity about where to sit in a crowded lunchroom.

The conference is a place to share knowledge that is friendly and relaxed. Whether from a high-profile luminary in a grand ballroom to a friendly face in the hospitality suite, there has been nowhere I have learned so much over a three-day span.

The conference is also a place where one can go out to dinner with staff from other shops and make connections with folks who may help you later in the year when you call with questions about study design, quality control, or a major reorganization of staff.

Works in Progress Encouraged

I was thrilled to find this amazing group of people who were willing to share ideas about every aspect of survey research including failures as well as successes.

Because the organization strongly emphasized presentation of recent activities and of research in progress, rather than formal papers ready for publication in journals or proceedings, one could learn of emerging ideas and new techniques much earlier than at meetings that are more formal.

I have learned so much from sharing our findings and methods with others, learning about ways they approach things, and sharing successes as well as failures. I soaked in stories from other's experiences, and really felt like I was part of a larger community.

When I present sessions on emerging technologies, I am always heartened by the quality of the attendees who were savvy and as anxious as I am to keep up in an always rapidly changing field. Whether a comparison of code written in several competing CAI languages or various homegrown and off-the-shelf Web programs in the Great Web Shoot-out, demonstrations of mobile devices and reports of experiments done on them, there is always something new to learn.

IFD&TC CONTINUES TO BE VITAL BECAUSE OF THESE FEATURES

The great value of this conference has been to meet and collaborate with individuals whose lives are deep into the technology aspects of survey research, to explore the current edges of relevant technology, and to get a real sense of where the field is headed.

In fact, this conference is so good—so applicable to survey field managers, that I expect to find out about problems and issues that we haven't even experienced yet. I expect to finish the conference with a head full of new ideas, new possibilities.

IFD&TC has helped me grow, and even as I have done so, has continued to provide challenges and opportunities for further growth. It has provided me with both a crutch to lean on and a goal to reach for.

Each year I leave the conference armed with some new ideas and a renewed enthusiasm for my job, which is just another benefit of IFD&TC.

IFD&TC is reassuring to us in the profession who see our typical ways of collecting data in peril. What is reassuring is listening to and sharing information and ideas with the talented people who deliver the keynotes and who present and contribute to panels. As history has taught us, we will solve these issues one way or another and the tradition of information sharing at these conferences will help us get there.

SUMMARY

As can be seen from the recollections above, IFD&TC is an unusual conference. IFD&TC has institutionalized its small size, non-proprietary nature, and open acceptance of works in progress for the program. The organizers have hewed to this spirit through a period that saw the rapid growth of survey research, the explosive impact of technology on survey data collection, and the continuing challenges of funding, declines in response rates, and the necessity of adopting new sampling methodologies. In spite of these challenges they have kept the conference intimate, informal, welcoming of work in progress while still being relevant to the most current research in our field.

The continued success of the conference in the face of these changes and challenges is due to its character, of which we trust the preceding recollections will have given the reader a sense. In addition

to the recollections printed here, there are of course many more about the warm personal relationships that flow naturally from all the other aspects of the conference.

IFD&TC attendance is open to personnel from academic, government, and nonprofit survey research centers. Registration begins in mid-March. For details, please visit the IFD&TC Web site at <http://ifdetc.org/>. We hope to see you in May.

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CURRENT RESEARCH

Further information on the studies described in this section should be obtained from the organizations conducting the studies at the addresses given at the beginning of each organization's listing. Neither Survey Research nor the Survey Research Laboratory can provide this information. Study summaries are accepted by Survey Research with the understanding that additional information can be released to others.

ILLINOIS

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2010 Census Integrated Communications Program Evaluation. NORC was selected to conduct an evaluation of the communications campaign for

the 2010 U.S. Census to assess the campaign's success and help preparations for the 2020 Census. NORC's approach involved conducting hybrid (cross-sectional/longitudinal) surveys with address-based probability samples of U.S. households and oversampling minority populations and other target segments. A final report was delivered to the Census Bureau in December 2011. *Project Director:* Chet Bowie.

Cultural Infrastructure in the U.S. The Cultural Policy Center's largest continuing project is the research funded by the Kresge, Mellon, and MacArthur foundations on "Cultural Infrastructure in the United States," a national study of the organizational decisions behind, implementation strategies for, and consequences of the building boom in museums, theaters, and performing arts centers in the U.S. between 1994 and 2008. It is the first comprehensive analysis of cultural building in the U.S. to be carried out at this scale and depth. *Principal Investigators:* Norman Bradburn and Carroll Joynes.

Dating Violence Prevention Program for Middle School Students. With support from the National Institute of Justice, NORC is conducting a three-year randomized multilevel experiment to evaluate the effectiveness of a multilevel longitudinal approach to dating violence and sexual harassment prevention programming for public middle school students from New York City. *Principal Investigator:* Bruce Taylor.

EIA-878 Motor Gasoline Price Survey and the EIA-888 On-Highway Diesel Fuel Price Survey. NORC is collecting data on the cash price of self-serve, conventional, and reformulated motor gasoline and self-serve motor vehicle diesel fuel from a nationally representative panel of gas stations on a weekly basis for these surveys sponsored by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. *Principal Investigator:* Douglas Himberger, *Project Director:* Matthew Kozey.

State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement Program Evaluation. NORC has been awarded a contract from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT to conduct an evaluation of the State HIE Cooperative Agreements Program. The purpose is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of the program's planning, implementation, and operation. NORC is also responsible for providing evaluation-related technical assistance to states in designing and implementing the states' evaluation plans. *Project Director:* Prashila Dullabh.

Getting on Track Early for School Success: An Assessment System to Support Effective Instruction. The Foundation for Child Development and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation are each providing a \$1.2 million grant for research, development, and validation of a preschool literacy and math assessment tool. The Annie E. Casey Foundation is providing \$182,300 to fund a research fellow to lead the literacy research and development team. CME Foundation and McCormick Foundation are also supporting the project. The goal of the project is to develop objective, valid, and instructionally relevant tools for assessing the literacy and math skills of three- and four-year-old preschool children who are either English monolinguals or Spanish-English Language Learners. *Principal Investigator:* Stephen Raudenbush, *Project Director:* Michael Reynolds.

Impact Evaluation Services in Lesotho. NORC, the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública of Mexico, and the Institute of Business and Economic Research at the Univ. of California at Berkeley designed and are implementing a rigorous impact evaluation for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, on four activities under the Millennium Challenge Account Lesotho Program. *Project Director:* Varuni Dayaratna.

Men's Assessment of Social Support and Risk Networks. The goal of this project was to pilot test recruitment procedures and questionnaires to assess the influence of social networks and norms and beliefs of a racially and ethnically diverse sample of men who have sex with men on their sex and sex-drug risk and risk reduction practices. *Project Director:* Stuart Michaels.

National Immunization Survey (NIS). The NIS produces estimates on the immunization rate among young children in the U.S., a critical contributor to the prevention of childhood diseases. Administered by NORC since 2005, it is one of the largest telephone surveys in the nation; its data are considered the gold standard for public health surveillance on immunization rates. It consists of an interview conducted by phone with households randomly selected and screened for the presence of young children. Questions ask about the vaccinations received by selected children (including recommended seasonal flu vaccines), as well as the availability of health insurance and selected demographic information. *Project Director:* Michele Koppelman.

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)—1997. The NLSY, sponsored and funded by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Dept. of Labor,

is the youth-focused component of the National Longitudinal Surveys Program—a set of surveys used to gather information on the labor market experiences of American men and women. The 15th round of data collection was completed successfully with 83.9% of the living respondents completing the in-person interview between September 2011 and June 2012. NORC is wrapping up the collection of waivers for college transcripts as companion administrative data for these respondents age 27–31. Public use data will be available in 2013. *Principal Investigators:* Dan Black and Lowell Taylor, *Project Director:* Dan Black, *Project Manager:* Kymn Kochanek.

National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH). On behalf of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, NORC conducts the NSCH, producing 93,600 interviews (1,800 per state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) in six languages. It provides a wide range of data on the physical and emotional health of children under age 18, including information on health and functional status, health insurance coverage, health-care access and utilization, medical home, early childhood, middle childhood and adolescence, family functioning and parental health, neighborhood characteristics, and selected demographic characteristics. *Project Director:* Heather Morrison.

Preparing Hospitals to Screen and Treat Patients with Alcohol and Drug Use Problems. NORC was asked by JBS International, a Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Technical Assistance contractor, to deliver onsite and Web-based technical assistance and training to a select representative sample of U.S. hospitals in the general areas of Joint Commission Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) performance measures, developing billing and reimbursement processes to sustain SBIRT. *Principal Investigator:* Eric Goplerud, *Project Director:* Tracy McPherson.

Web-Based Interactive Multimedia CBT Bereavement Support Program. NORC will evaluate the "Good Grief: Moving from Sorrow to Strength" program developed by the Oregon Center for Applied Science as part of a Phase I/II SBIR grant funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The program delivers comprehensive tools and information designed to help employees develop effective coping skills. *Project Director:* Tracy McPherson.

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Gender, Harassment, and Drinking among College Students. This longitudinal study of college students is funded by NIH. Approximately 9,000 incoming freshmen were sampled from eight Illinois schools during the summer of 2011: Northeastern, Northern Illinois, Loyola, DePaul, Roosevelt, College of Lake County, UIC, and UIUC. Students completed a baseline wave in the fall of 2011, a follow-up wave in the spring of 2012, and are currently completing the second follow-up. There will be three more waves after this one. SRL obtained over 2,900 completes for the baseline wave, and over 2,100 completes for the first follow-up. The study follows student's work and school situations, stressors, and coping behaviors—including drinking and substance abuse—over time. *Principal Investigator:* Kathleen Rospenda (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

4-H Evaluation. Researchers at the Illinois 4-H program offered by the University of Illinois Extension conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of 4-H program efforts in three areas: Illinois 4-H Science, 4-H Club BIG-M (club quality measures on Belonging, Independence, Generosity, and Mastery), and Career Development. PAPI and Web-based self-administered surveys were conducted of youth currently enrolled in 4-H programs, clubs, and groups. The data provided will help 4-H understand how effective their programs are and will help benchmark against similar data collected by 4-H programs in other states. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Rapid Influenza Testing in Labs. Researchers at the CDC and the Joint Commission conducted a Web survey of hospital-based laboratories to better understand how these laboratories across the country conduct testing for influenza. The aim is to collect data on RIDT (Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Testing) confirmatory testing, quality assurance practices, transport practices between the point of specimen collection and the laboratory, and the reporting of test results. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Student Advising at UIC. SRL conducted this Web survey of Univ. of Illinois at Chicago students who were freshman in 2011 or 2012 on behalf of the Office of Degree Progress. The purpose of the study is

to better understand the sources and types of advising information that students receive from both their formal and informal networks. The findings will allow the campus community to better understand how to build support for future UIC students. *Project Coordinator:* Anne Diffenderffer.

UIC Attrition Survey. On behalf of the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic and Enrollment Services, SRL currently is conducting a Web survey of 905 students who attended UIC last year but did not re-enroll this year. The survey seeks to understand the reasons for, challenges to, and obstacles to students' enrollment at UIC. *Project Coordinator:* Anne Diffenderffer.

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2011 Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP). SNAAP (snaap.indiana.edu) is an online survey that tracks the lives and careers of arts alumni. The first annual administration was fielded September–November 2011 after three years of field tests. Over 29,000 arts graduates responded to questions about their arts education, employment, how their arts training applies to their work, and other related topics. Recruitment of participating institutions for the 2012 survey is complete and it will open in October 2012. *Principal Investigator:* George Kuh (Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research), *Project Director:* Erica Moore.

EAGER: Best Practices and Models for Sustainability of Robust Cyberinfrastructure Software. Web data collection has recently closed for this NSF-funded study. We surveyed a random selection of 5,000 IT professionals from a list of those with a known history of receiving NSF grants. The purpose of the study was to identify best practices in the development, deployment, and support of robust cyberinfrastructure software, with a focus on open-source software. *Principal Investigator:* Craig Stewart (Indiana University Office of the Vice President for Information Technology and CIO), *Project Director:* Heather Terhune Marti.

Indiana University Bloomington Transportation Census. This study consists of two Web surveys, one canvassing faculty and staff (~9,500) and the other students (~42,000), regarding commuting habits to and from campus. It aims to gauge current use of transportation services and facilities and estimate future demand. Prize drawings and a “ticker counter” on the survey welcome page were implemented to increase interest. Data collection has been completed. *Project Director:* Lilian Yahng.

IOWA

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Osteoporosis Prevention among Rural Women: Cutting Hair and Cutting Risk. Funded by the Univ. of Iowa Prevention Research Center for Rural Health, this pilot grant aims to assess rural women's knowledge, health beliefs, attitudes, and current behaviors related to bone density changes, osteoporosis risk, screening, and treatment via brief telephone interviews with adult women in Webster County, Iowa, and determine the feasibility of developing a quasi-experimental study of osteoporosis prevention in rural counties using hair stylists as lay health educators by conducting qualitative interviews with stylists. During May and June 2012, staff completed 634 telephone interviews with Iowa women over 40 using list-assisted targeted sampling. *Principal Investigators:* Mary Losch and Susan Roberts-Dobie.

Green Community Campaign. Funded by an NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant to Iowa State University, this project includes all of the state's public universities and four distinct platforms: bioenergy, wind energy, energy utilization, and energy policy. Each platform is organized into planks that emphasize the systems perspective of the EPSCoR project. The energy utilization platform includes a Green Community Campaign project, which is a quasi-experimental study including two intervention communities and one control community, led by researchers at the Univ. of Northern Iowa. The intervention variables designed to reduce residential energy use in the campaign communities include informational and motivational messaging and manipulations aimed at adopting at least one LED bulb in the household,

changing furnace filters 4x per year, and increasing the number of home audit recommendations adopted by residents opting to have a home audit conducted. Measured outcomes will include annual residential energy use controlled for average temps, attitudes, knowledge, number of home energy audits, number of recommendations adopted after audits, self-reported conservation behaviors, local sales data for LED bulbs, CFLs, and furnace filters. Baseline measures of residents were completed in each of the communities June–August 2012. The sample frame included all residential energy customers in each community; telephone contact information was provided by the local utility, which is partnering with the investigators on the project. Approximately 300 telephone interviews were completed in each community. Postintervention interviews will be conducted during summer 2013. *Principal Investigators:* Mary Losch and Jack Yates.

KENTUCKY

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Life Stresses, Family and Partner Support, and Cancer Care for Women. The purpose of this ongoing survey of 5,000 female cancer survivors is to assess the level of support from intimate partners and the effect of other life stresses on recovery. *Principal Investigator:* Ann Coker, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

Local Health Department Smoking Attitudes. This ongoing project subsidized by the Kentucky Tobacco Policy Research Program seeks to measure attitudes about tobacco use and awareness of its effect on health outcomes in local communities; it also measures support for local smoke-free laws in public places. SRC recently completed surveys in Owen, Gallatin, Carroll, Pendleton, and Magoffin counties. *Principal Investigator:* Ron Langley, *Project Director:* Marianne Clark.

Kentucky Office for Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Client Satisfaction. This survey is conducted annually on behalf of OVR. *Principal Investigator:* Kathy Sheppard-Jones, *Project Director:* Marianne Clark.

Kentucky Office for the Blind (OFB) Client Satisfaction. This is another survey conducted annually.

The client is the OFB. *Principal Investigator:* Christina Espinosa, *Project Director:* Marianne Clark.

Driver Attitudes and Awareness. Annual survey of Kentucky driver behaviors and attitudes regarding safety belt use, speeding, impaired driving and distracted driving. *Principal Investigator:* Ken Agent, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

Suicide Bereavement in Military Veterans and Their Families. This dual-frame telephone survey of 2,000 Kentucky veterans and 1,200 nonveterans addressed attitudes about suicide, suicide ideation, and personal experience with loss by suicide. Veterans also were asked about personal experience with other (nonsuicide) sudden and traumatic deaths. *Principal Investigator:* Julie Cerel, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

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Cognition and Aging in the U.S.—Waves 4 and 5. The purpose of this study is to continue the work done for Assessing and Improving Cognitive Measurements in the HRS last conducted in 2009—exploring the ways to best collect cognitive ability information from respondents across various modes. SRC will conduct waves 4 and 5 of this study with approximately 1,167 respondents who have participated in previous waves. Respondents will be asked to complete two interviews—a 45-minute interview by phone and a 40-minute interview via the Web. One of the research goals is to consider whether unbiased cognitive measures of adults can be collected in a reliable and valid fashion via Web. The project also seeks to better understand the basis of mode effects—are they due to selectivity effects based on who has Internet access or due to differences in how or whether people respond to comparable questions asked in a Web-based vs. interviewer-administered interview? *Principal Investigators:* Jack McArdle (USC) and Gwenith Fisher (SRC), *Survey Manager:* ZoAnne Blackburn.

The Intensive Measurement of Drug Use during Transition to Adulthood. This project, which in-

volves the administration of intensive Web/diary surveys to high school seniors, will provide information to support advances in survey research methodology by examining whether Web-based surveys are appropriate measures for a diverse population of students transitioning out of high school, whether students can appropriately be retained across this transition in both high- and low-intensity measurement conditions, and how intensive measurement conditions affect both attrition and survey responses over time. There will be three waves of survey and daily diary administration with e-mail, text, and phone follow-up for the intensive measurement group; the low-intensity group will be surveyed the third wave only. *Principal Investigator:* Megan Patrick (UM-SRC), *Survey Manager:* Esther Ullman.

Health and Retirement Study (HRS). The HRS is a national longitudinal study primarily funded by the National Institute of Aging (NIA) that began in 1992. New sample members are recruited each six years to ensure that the study is representative of the U.S. population age 50+. Over 35,000 respondents have participated in the study over the years. Respondents are interviewed every two years by phone or in person. The questionnaire covers health status and health care utilization, employment status and history, retirement planning, cognitive measures, quality of life, and a series of physical measures and biomarkers. Approximately 24,500 panel members will be asked to participate in the 2012 study wave; about half of these will be asked to provide physical measurements and biomarkers. *Principal Investigator:* David Weir (Univ. of Michigan), *Survey Director:* Heidi Guyer.

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State of the State Survey (SOSS). In early August, OSR concluded data collection for the 62nd SOSS, a telephone survey of Michigan adults conducted roughly quarterly since 1994. In addition to the SOSS standard consumer confidence/financial well-being, performance of the governor and president questions, the topics included education policy issues, government services, Internet access and costs, energy efficiency programs for housing, and counterfeit products ($n = 1,008$). As with previous rounds of

SOSS, the data set, codebook, and methodological report will be posted to our Web site (osr.msu.edu) data on demand) for online analysis or download in six months. SOSS 63 began in late August. *Project Manager:* Paul Burton.

American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) Resident and Longitudinal Panel Surveys. On behalf of the ABEM, OSR has begun two mail/Web surveys of emergency physicians, a panel survey of 184 ER residents in their second year, and an interim survey of a panel of 1,347 ER physicians regarding their careers and their medical work environments. OSR helped ABEM design the initial questionnaire for the panel survey in the mid-'90s and has conducted data entry on all phases since. ABEM has turned over both data collection and data processing to OSR this year. *Project Managers:* Debra Rusz and Karen Clark.

Native American Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). For the Michigan Dept. of Community Health, OSR is beginning a mail survey with telephone follow-up of the roughly 800 Native American women who give birth to live babies in 2012-13. The survey uses slightly modified versions of the instruments and protocols of the CDC's PRAMS. *Project Manager:* Jill Hardy (who also manages the Michigan PRAMS project for OSR).

MINNESOTA

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Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) Community

Needs Assessment. Wilder Research was hired by CAPRW to conduct a community needs assessment to respond to a requirement every three years for community action agencies that receive Community Services Block Grant funds plus a similar requirement for their Head Start program funding. Wilder Research surveyed a random sample of low-income residents of Ramsey and Washington counties (including Saint Paul and much of the eastern part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area) using a mixed sample including landline RDD, cell phone, and targeted samples, resulting in just over 200 completes. Wilder also surveyed a random sample of 100 CAPRW

clients from each of four program areas (community engagement programs, energy assistance, energy conservation, and Head Start) as well as oversamples of 100 CAPRW clients from each of four selected cultural groups (Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Latino/Spanish-speaking). Surveys were conducted using mixed modes (SAQ, Web, and phone follow-up) in English, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish. Results will be used to fulfill federal funding reporting requirements and inform the CAPRW board, leadership, and other stakeholders about the needs of community members in their service area.

Park District School Survey. Wilder Research was hired by Three Rivers Park District to survey schools in its service area to learn more about the things they are looking for in field trip and outdoor recreation and environmental education programming and the barriers to offering these types of opportunities at their school. The park district manages nearly 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, regional trails, and other special use facilities in the west suburban Twin Cities metropolitan area. The survey included all K-12 schools in the service area, categorized by whether it was a previous user of the district's programs. Principals of sampled schools were sent a letter inviting them to log on to complete the Web survey; e-mail reminders were sent to those for whom e-mail addresses were available. Wilder also made follow-up reminder calls. Overall, 257 schools responded, for a 23% response rate. Results indicate that the majority of schools surveyed are unaware of many of the parks, services, and programs offered by the district. Most respondents who had visited a Three Rivers Park District site indicated they would consider the site for a field trip. Respondents specified distance, cost, and time as the major barriers for field trips and cost and time as the major barriers for outreach environmental education.

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Tracking Residential Satisfaction on Long Island.

The CSR conducted the Rauch Foundation's Long Island Index 2012 survey in fall 2011. RDD interviews were conducted with 810 Long Island residents. The CSR has been tracking Long Islanders' perceived

quality of life, economic, and social attitudes for the Long Island Index since 2003. This most recent survey revealed continued economic problems and inequality on Long Island. *Principal Investigator:* Leonie Huddy.

NORTH CAROLINA

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South Atlantic Landscape Conversation Cooperative (SALCC) Interactive Database of Conservation Projects. RTI is working with SALCC on the development of an interactive database of conservation projects. SALCC is a science partnership crossing from Virginia to northern Florida, providing a vision for a landscape capable of sustaining healthy populations of fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural resources. The database will allow visitors to the SALCC community Web site to browse projects performed by the LCC and their partners, as well as search and filter on categories such as climate threats or ecosystems. It will include contact information, embedded videos, and downloadable products, such as data sets, models, GIS layers and other tools. *Project Director:* Elizabeth Robbins.

National Center for Innovation in Career and

Technical Education. RTI has been awarded The National Center for Innovation in Career and Technical Education, funded by the Dept. of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education. It will collect data from a variety of study populations; assess the impact of career and technical education programs and practices; analyze data from a range of existing national, state, and local data sets; disseminate research findings; and provide expert training to multiple audiences. *Project Director:* Laura Knapp.

TEXAS

Center for Community Research & Development (CCRD)

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Waco Health Survey. To assess community views on particular health-related issues and to compare

satisfaction with a variety of medical services offered at local medical campuses, CCRD doctoral students conducted a telephone survey of residents of Waco and surrounding counties. A total of 607 adult residents completed the survey. Results were analyzed based on four core demographic variables: race, geographic area, age, and income.

Waco Public Opinion Survey. Using the same sampling population and methods, CCRD doctoral students surveyed 701 adult residents by phone to gain insights on public opinion regarding a number of community-related topics such as community pride as it relates to athletic success of the local university, local transportation, public perceptions of crime and safety, satisfaction with local businesses, and general community satisfaction. Along with the topical focuses, the survey tested methodological effects of utilizing a question understanding aid (QUAID) as well as response differences between cell- and landline-based sampling frames.

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Jefferson Area Community Survey (JACS). In January 2012, CSR concluded its inaugural JACS, a recurring omnibus telephone survey of 1,000+ randomly selected adults living in one independent city (Charlottesville) and its five surrounding counties in central Virginia. The JACS used a triple-frame sample design, combining a landline-based RDD sample, a sample of directory-listed landline households, and an RDD sample of cell-phone numbers from the region. Designed to offer area nonprofit groups, government agencies, and academic researchers a cost-effective way to gather regional information from a representative sample of area residents, the JACS included questions on topics ranging from a hotly contested Virginia Senate seat to regional health care access and potential changes in local traffic patterns in its inaugural edition. The second JACS is scheduled for September 2012. *Principal Investigator:* Thomas Guterbock, *Project Coordinator:* Peter Furia.

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- Survey Research Center, University of Michigan
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WASHINGTON

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Freight Routing on State Highways. From December 2010 through March 2011, a sample of 2,245 eligible businesses in Washington were contacted to help state officials understand the freight routing process and factors that influence specific routing choices for freight-dependent businesses operating in Washington. The mixed-mode survey yielded 725 telephone completes and 200 Web completes for an overall 41% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Dan Vakoch.

Economic Impact of Truck Congestion. From December 2010 through March 2011, a sample of 4,081 eligible Washington businesses were contacted to help state officials understand the economic impacts of traffic congestion and traffic delays for freight-dependent businesses operating in the state. The mixed-mode survey yielded 746 telephone and 465 Web completes for an overall 30% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Dan Vakoch.

Environmental Behavior Index. From January through March 2011, SESRC conducted a telephone and Web survey of 9,183 eligible households in King Co., WA, for the King Co. Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks to learn more about household environ-

mental behaviors by using 21 key environmental behavior measures. A total of 1,816 (1,209 phone, 607 Web) interviews were completed for a 20% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* John Tarnai, *Study Director:* Tim Faiella.

Pest Management Practices in Pear Orchards.

The WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center sponsored a mixed-mode mail/Internet survey of pear orchard owners, managers, and lessees in Oregon and Washington to learn about pest management practices used in western pear orchard systems. The survey was conducted in March and April 2011. Of 962 eligible orchards contacted, 307 completed by mail and 28 completed by Web for an overall response rate of 35%. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Yi-Jen Wang.

Needs of Organic Farmers. In spring 2011, a nationwide random sample of organic farms was contacted for a mixed-mode mail/Internet survey for the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). The overall goal was to assess organic farmers' production, marketing, and farm policy information needs and preferences. The results will be used to enhance OFRF information and outreach tools and formats. Of the 1,750 respondents contacted, 309 completed the survey by mail and 99 by Web; 23 partially completed the survey on the Web. These results represent a 24% response rate. *Principal Investigator and Study Director:* Rose Krebill-Prather.

Energy Use and Conservation. From April through June 2011, SESRC contacted 1,000 customers of Tacoma Power to learn more about how they use energy in their homes and how services might be improved. The mixed-mode study used Web, mail, and telephone methods for data collection. Overall, 197 completed by phone, 254 by mail, and 113 by Web; 17 partially completed the Web instrument. This results in an overall 63% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Business and Economic Development Center (BEDC). In June through July 2011, SESRC collaborated with the BEDC at Univ. of Washington's Foster School of Business to conduct a telephone survey of businesses that have used the services provided by BEDC. The goal of the survey is to improve services and track outcomes. A total of 60 interviews were obtained from a starting sample of 165 for a 36% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* John Tarnai, *Study Director:* Tim Faiella.

WISCONSIN

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2012 Family Health Survey (FHS). The Survey Center is completing its 12th year conducting the Wisconsin FHS; this year saw a major mode switch: previously the survey was conducted as a straight RDD phone survey, but this year the Survey Center will be using an address-based sample and will conduct the survey with a mixed-mode mail and phone approach. Target number of completes is 1,800. Client is the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services.

California Foster Care Study. The Survey Center will be conducting a CAPI study of approximately 800 youth age 17–18 across California who are in late years of foster care. *Principal Investigator:* Mark Courtney (Univ. of Chicago).

Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) Refresher. We are conducting a replenishment of sample for the MIDUS to refresh the cohorts age 25–54. These

2,100 45-minute phone interviews are being gathered with a combination of cell phone, RDD, and targeted list samples. After completing the initial phone interview, respondents will be sent a 110-page SAQ and then will complete a 20-minute cognitive battery. An oversample of 500 African Americans will be collected using CAPI with a modified follow-up approach. *Principal Investigator:* Carol Ryff.

CSNIP Follow-up Survey. A panel with just over 1,000 former UW Students will be surveyed via Web about political engagement and social networks. *Principal Investigator:* Casey Klofstad (Univ. of Miami).

CANADA

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Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

The goal of this study is to gather timely data for planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating public health programs and services in selected

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Ontario public health departments. Modeled after a study first conducted by the CDC, the RRFSS gathers trend data used to monitor key public health issues such as asthma rates, smoking, drinking and driving, sun safety, women's health issues, bicycle helmet use, water testing for private wells, rates of rabies vaccinations, and so on. Newly emerging issues such as the prevalence of bedbugs in the home, emergency and disaster preparedness, climate change, air quality, and road safety also are explored. Throughout 2012, ISR is conducting approximately 8,000 CATI RDD interviews three times a year with residents in the regions served by each participating department. Funding is provided by the participating health departments. *Study Director:* Renée Elsbett Koeppen.

Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS). This biennial study of student awareness and use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs was initiated in 1977 by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Now spanning more than 30 years, the OSDUHS is the longest ongoing school survey in Canada and one of the longest in the world. ISR has conducted this survey for CAMH since 1981 and in 2013 will conduct the study's 17th wave. The survey, which now includes measures of student mental and physical well being, will be administered in classrooms across Ontario to approximately 11,500 students in grades 7–12 between October 2012 and May 2013. This comprehensive strategy facilitates comparisons between Canadian and American studies and provides information on the critical age patterns associated with smoking, drinking, drug use, and physical and mental well being. Funding is provided by the Government of Ontario. *CAMH Principal Investigator:* Robert Mann, *CAMH Study Manager and Research Analyst:* Angela Boak, *ISR Study Director:* John Pollard.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Survey Research reports on the new appointments and promotions of professional staff at academic and not-for-profit survey research organizations, as well as those of the for-profit organizations that are patrons of the newsletter.

NORC's Research Programs welcomes **Trevor Tompson** as Principal Research Scientist and Director of the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, Senior Research Scientist **Gretchen Torres** (Health

Care Research), and Methodology Fellow **Michael Stern** (Center for Excellence in Survey Research). Bios of these and other NORC experts can be found at www.norc.org/Experts/Pages/default.aspx.

Over the past year, the Indiana University Center for Survey Research has been reorganizing and growing the professional staff, leading to several promotions: **Lilian Yahng** to the Director of Research and Development and Research Laboratory, **Jamie Roberts** to Director of Research Administration and Management Services, and **Maryanne McDonnell** to Director of Business Operations and Human Resources. Our technology leads—Director of Technologies **Kevin Tharp** and Lead Programmer **Jason Francis**—also had their positions classified into a higher level by the university.

RTI's Research Computing Division has been joined by Senior Information and Communication Technical Advisor **Mturi Elias** and Programmer Analyst **Richard Zemonek**. The Survey Research Division welcomes Survey Scientists **Jeffery Rosenthal**, **Frances Gragg**, and **Stephen King**; Survey Specialists **Kayla Vaughan** and **Timothy Sartwell**; and Survey Methodologist **Chris Stringer**. **Brittany Brattain** joined the Education Studies Division as an Education Analyst. **Safaa Amer** joined the Social Sciences Division as a Senior Research Statistician.

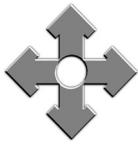
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